



August 2, 2024 • Vol. 5, Issue 224 • \$5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

Junior

WIN IN THE WILD

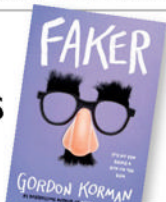
The Iberian lynx makes a comeback from near-extinction **p10**

DID YOU KNOW?

- The lynx was classified as critically endangered in 2002.
- Several conservation groups worked together to save it.
- The population in Europe increased from 62 to more than 2,000.



THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS





This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

Joe Biden was a US senator from Delaware from 1973–2009, served as Vice President from 2009–2017, and became President in 2021.

A rare decision



The end of Joe Biden's campaign came later than that of any other US President who has decided not to seek re-election. Biden dropped out of the race with 183 days left in his first term. Lyndon B. Johnson (above) ended his campaign in 1968 with 295 days left. In 1952, Harry S. Truman ended his with 297 days left.

Kamala Harris at a campaign event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 23

Biden exits Presidential race

Joe Biden, the 46th US President, announced on July 21 that he is ending his re-election campaign. He had been expected to accept the Democratic party's official nomination for a second four-year term and to run against the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump, in the election on November 5.

What happened?

Biden announced his decision to step down in a letter posted on social media. "It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," he wrote. "And while it has been my intention to seek re-election, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term." Shortly after, he endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the new Presidential nominee and encouraged Democrats to rally behind her.

Why did Biden step down?

Biden was under intense pressure from Democratic elected officials and other party members to withdraw from the race. He is the oldest President in US history at age 81, and concerns about his

fitness for office increased after he struggled in a debate against Trump on June 27. Polls showed that 74% of voters thought Biden was too old for the job. Biden initially refused calls to step down.

Who will replace him on the ticket?

The likely nominee is Harris, age 59. More than 200 Democratic officials endorsed her after Biden did, and when *The Week Junior* went to press on July 23, no one had challenged her for the role. Harris is from California, and her previous positions have included attorney general (a state's top lawyer) and US senator from that state. In 2020, she became the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian American to be elected Vice President of the US.

To formally become the nominee, Harris must be chosen by at least 1,976 of the Democratic Party's 3,949 delegates (people who represent voters from all 50 states). When *The Week Junior* went to press, news reports said she had the support of 2,887 delegates. A vote is required to make that official, and party leaders said it would be held online by August 7. The nominee will attend the Democratic National Convention from August 19–22 in Chicago, Illinois.



A Biden supporter outside the White House on July 21

How did people react to Biden's announcement?

Harris praised Biden for a "selfless and patriotic act" in withdrawing from the race and said, "I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party—and unite our nation—to defeat Donald Trump." Presidential historian Jon Meacham said Biden's decision showed he was putting the nation ahead of his own personal ambition. "Biden has decided this campaign is not about him but about us," Meacham told MSNBC. After Biden's announcement, supporters gathered outside the White House, chanting "We love you!" and carrying signs with messages like "Thank you, Joe." Meanwhile, Trump said on social media that "Joe Biden was not fit to run for President."

What will happen next?

Harris has begun traveling the US to make her case to voters. On July 23, her team said more than 1.1 million donors had given more than \$100 million to her campaign since Biden's announcement. Once the Democratic nominee is officially named, that person will choose a candidate for Vice President to join the race with them. Several prominent Democrats have been suggested for that position. The Democratic nominee may participate in a Presidential debate with Trump, although that has not been confirmed.



New vaccine for malaria rolls out

On July 15, Ivory Coast became the first country to give young children a new vaccine against malaria (disease spread by mosquitoes) called R21/Matrix-M. Malaria kills nearly 600,000 people in Africa every year, about 80% of them children. The West African nation plans to give the vaccine to about 250,000 children under age 2.

R21/Matrix-M was developed by the University of Oxford in the UK and the Serum Institute of India and approved by the World Health Organization in 2023. It is inexpensive to produce and is up to 80% effective in children. Another malaria vaccine, called Mosquirix, was approved in 2021 and given to about 2 million children but is less effective.

Going forward, about 100 million doses of R21/Matrix-M will be produced each year. Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic will begin giving the vaccine to children in the coming months as well. Adrian Hill, a scientist at Oxford, said the rollout of R21/Matrix-M "marks the start of a new era in malaria control."



Record sale for dino fossil

The largest and most complete Stegosaurus fossil ever found sold for a record \$44.6 million at Sotheby's auction house in New York City on July 17. The dinosaur, named Apex, was purchased by business executive Ken Griffin and is now the most valuable fossil ever sold at auction (a sale where buyers compete by placing bids). The previous record was held by a Tyrannosaurus rex named Stan, which sold for \$31.8 million in 2020.

Apex is 11 feet tall, nearly 27 feet long from nose to tail, and about 161 million years old. It was unearthed on private land in Colorado in 2022. Sotheby's initially expected it to sell for between \$4 million and \$6 million, but during the auction, potential buyers outbid one another, pushing the price up. Critics have said that auctions like these

increase fossil prices so much that museums and scientific institutions can't afford them. Some private collectors can pay more, but privately held fossils are often unavailable for scientific research.

Griffin, however, is known for making his collection accessible. In 2017, he acquired Sue, a 42-foot-long T. rex, for \$16.5 million. He donated it to the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois. In 2021, he bought a first edition of the US Constitution for \$43.2 million and loaned it to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas.

Griffin said he will loan Apex to a US institution to share it with the public, rather than keeping it for private viewing. "Apex was born in America and is going to stay in America," he said. The institution has yet to be determined.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

AN EMOJI CELEBRATION

The 11th annual World Emoji Day was marked on July 17—a date that was chosen because it appears on the emoji that depicts a calendar. The event's organizers encouraged people to dress as their favorite emoji, bake emoji cakes, and send text messages entirely in emojis. "We all use emojis every day, so why not celebrate them?" they said.



A KIND GESTURE

A Texas cat sanctuary was out of money and about to shut its doors when a TikTok influencer stepped in. The facility had helped him rescue an injured stray he named Esbee. In thanks, he asked his followers to support the shelter. His fans sent \$190,000 in donations and four trucks of supplies, which will save more than 700 cats.



OLYMPIC STYLE

Team Mongolia's uniforms for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Paris Olympics have gone viral. The high-fashion, hand-embroidered outfits are a stylish take on the nation's traditional clothing and use colors and symbols from its flag.

"Stunning," said a commenter. "Gold medal already," said another.



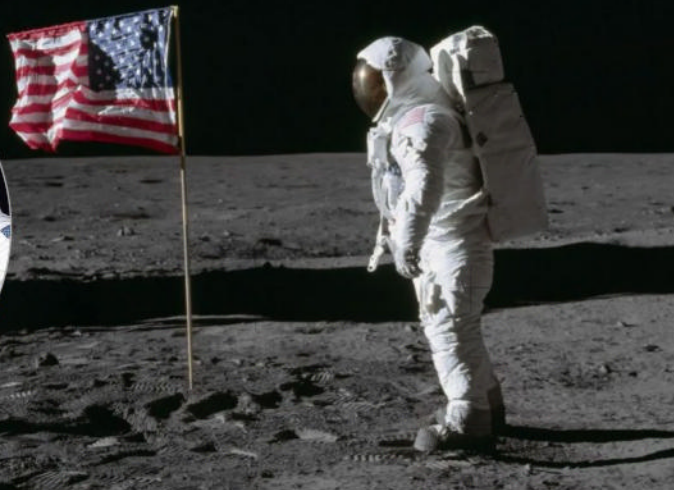


MOON MYTHOLOGY
NASA named the Apollo program after the Greek god of light, music, and the Sun.



From left: astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin

Below: Buzz Aldrin on the Moon in 1969



Song transmitted to Venus



Missy Elliott

On July 12, NASA transmitted hip-hop artist Missy Elliott's song "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" to Venus—a 14-minute trip over about 158 million miles. The song was sent with the same system used during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. This was the second song sent into space, after the Beatles' "Across the Universe" in 2008.

NASA marks Moon landing milestone

NASA, the US space agency, has marked the 55th anniversary of the Apollo 11 spaceflight that landed humans on the Moon. The groundbreaking event in 1969 was a historic achievement watched on television by 530 million people around the world.

What was Apollo 11?

The flight was part of NASA's Apollo program, which launched in 1961. The next year, President John F. Kennedy challenged the space agency to land the first person on the Moon. At that time, the US was competing in a "space race" with the Soviet Union (which Russia was part of). In 1961, a Soviet cosmonaut had become the first person in space by completing a flight orbiting the Earth. The first Apollo flight to the Moon took place in 1968.

What happened 55 years ago?

On July 16, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin launched into space on a Saturn V rocket. Three days later, they entered the Moon's orbit. As they approached the Moon, they boarded the Eagle, a smaller spacecraft built for a Moon landing. After Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface on July 20, he said words that instantly became famous: "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." Before returning to Earth, the astronauts collected rock and soil for scientists to study. The breakthrough voyage paved the way for five more Apollo missions to the Moon, with a total of 12 astronauts walking on the lunar surface before the project ended in 1972.

How was the anniversary observed?

NASA celebrated the milestone by naming a building at its space center in Texas after Dorothy Vaughan, NASA's first Black manager, who helped launch the Apollo program. It also held a model rocket contest and panel discussions. Aldrin, age 94, spoke to *People* magazine to mark the anniversary. "Gratitude, I think, might be my strongest feeling, even now," he said about his role in the Apollo mission.

What will happen next?

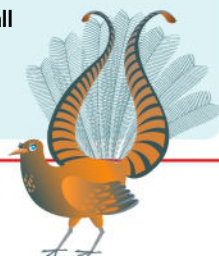
NASA is preparing to return to the Moon with its Artemis mission, using new technology to study the lunar surface. It is planning for four astronauts to orbit the Moon in 2025 and hopes to land astronauts on the Moon's South Pole in 2026.



WORD OF THE WEEK

LYREBIRD

The Australian lyrebird is known for its remarkable ability to mimic different sounds and for its song. Its name was chosen because males have long tails that look like a lyre, a stringed instrument that resembles a small U-shaped harp. The English word "lyric" also comes from lyre.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 30, 1729

Baltimore, Maryland, is established

On July 30, 1729, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill calling for a town to be built on the north side of the Patapsco River. It was to be named after Lord Baltimore, who had established the colony of Maryland in 1632. Baltimore's busy shipping port made it one of the largest US cities for nearly 200 years. Today, it is the 30th largest US city, with a population of more than 565,000.



A view of Baltimore



The school in Texas

School is named a historic site

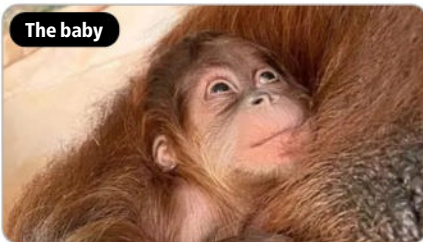
The Blackwell School in Marfa, Texas, has been named a national historic site. From the time it was built in 1909 until 1965, Mexican American children who were banned from attending public schools due to racism were taught there. Visitors can see photographs and read stories from teachers and students. The historic designation will protect the site and preserve it for future generations, said Deb Haaland, secretary of the interior.



One of the recipients

Artistic honorees are selected

Recipients of the 2024 Kennedy Center Honors, which recognize lifetime artistic achievements, were announced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The honorees are the Apollo Theater in New York City, singer Bonnie Raitt, filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola, jazz musician Arturo Sandoval, and the Grateful Dead rock group. The awards will be given in December.



The baby

Orangutan is born at US zoo

The Philadelphia Zoo in Pennsylvania has announced the birth of a Sumatran orangutan. The sex of the baby, born on June 26 to mother Tua, age 31, and father Sugi, age 28, has not been determined. The animals are critically endangered, with fewer than 14,000 on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, the only place they live in the wild. The zoo is part of a breeding program to save the species.



Cavan Sullivan

DID YOU KNOW?
Major League Soccer (MLS) was formed in 1996 and showcases the top level of soccer competition in North America.

Teen soccer player sets record

At age 14, Cavan Sullivan has become the youngest player to appear in a Major League Soccer (MLS) match. He came on as a substitute for the Philadelphia Union in the 85th minute of the club's 5–1 win over the New England Revolution on July 17.

Sullivan—who was 14 years and 293 days old at the time of his appearance in the match—broke a record previously set by Freddy Adu in April 2004, when he was 14 years and 306 days old. Sullivan is also the youngest player in any major professional sports league in North America, including the NBA, WNBA, NHL, NFL, and MLB, since at least 1970, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Soccer runs in Sullivan's family. Both of his parents played the sport at the University of Pennsylvania, and his older brother Quinn Sullivan, age 20, also plays for the Union. Cavan joined the

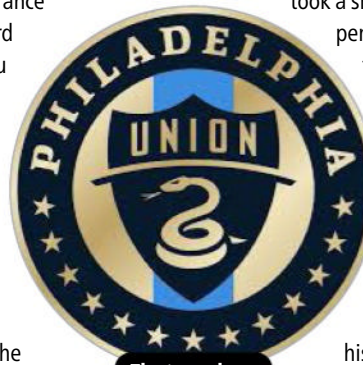
Philadelphia Union Academy, a competitive youth soccer program affiliated with the club, at age 10 and signed a pro contract with the Union in May.

Cavan entered the July 17 match moments after Quinn scored a goal for the Union. During his playing time, Cavan completed the first pass of his professional career to his brother. Cavan

took a shot on goal from outside the penalty box toward the end of the match, but it was saved by the Revolution goalkeeper.

Quinn said on the sidelines afterward that receiving his brother's first MLS pass was "a pretty special moment." Adu, who is retired from professional soccer, offered his congratulations on social media, saying, "That's a hard record to break, and the kid did it."

"This is just the start," Cavan said at a press conference after the match. "I'm really, really happy to have done this."



The team logo

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Mystery emu found wandering loose through Pennsylvania neighborhood" UPI





Around the world



A polar bear



Canada

New technology to track polar bears

Scientists have found a new way to monitor polar bears. In the past, tracking tags were attached to the animals' ears and had to be removed manually. The new tags, which stick into their fur, will fall off after a few weeks. These tags will help scientists learn more about the animals and their movements. As polar bears increasingly spend more time on land, monitoring their locations will also protect people who could come into contact with a bear.



A graduate of the school



Joanetes, Spain

First class of bell ringers graduates

A school in Spain is teaching the ancient art of ringing church bells by hand. Bell tolling (ringing) has been used throughout history to communicate important news, but most church bells have been automated since the 1980s. Now 18 students have graduated from the first class of the Vall d'en Bas School of Bell Ringers, which teaches people how to toll in different sequences and tones. About 60 students are enrolled for the fall.



President Paul Kagame



Kigali, Rwanda

Election win for president

On July 15, Rwandan President Paul Kagame was re-elected for a fourth term in office. He has been president since 2000. A president could serve only two terms under a previous rule, but people voted to remove that limit in 2015. Kagame won more than 99% of the vote in this year's election, but he has been accused of banning and silencing potential opponents.



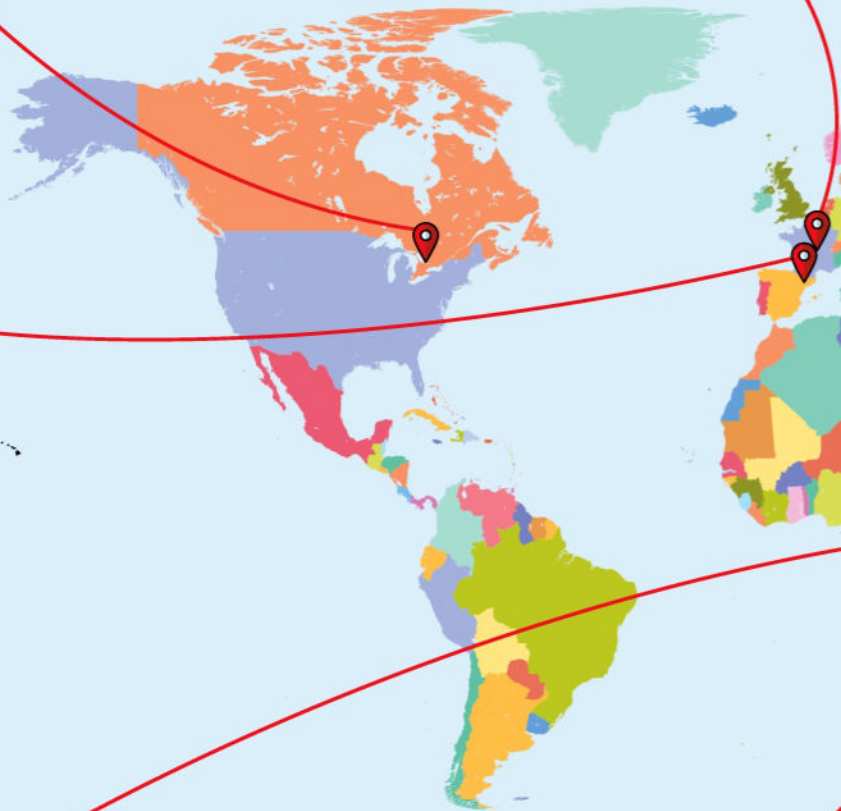
Paris, France

Mayor swims in Seine

On July 17, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo swam in the Seine River to show that it is clean enough to be used in the 2024 Olympics. Swimming in the river has been banned since 1923 because the polluted water was a risk to people's health. More than \$1.5 billion was spent to clean up the river so it can be used for open-water swimming races.



Mayor Anne Hidalgo



Greece

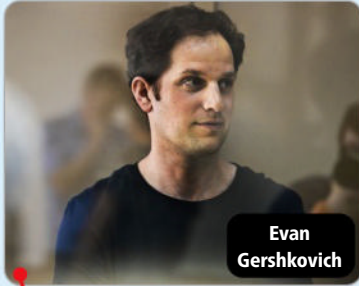
Drones at the beach

Greek authorities are using drones equipped with cameras to patrol beaches in an attempt to enforce new rules. These laws were created after residents complained about businesses blocking public beaches with lounge chairs. To prevent overcrowding, the rules limit how many rental chairs, beach beds, and umbrellas can be laid out and how close they can be to the water. An app called MyCoast also allows people to report beach violations.



A beach in Varkiza

AP; GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY (2); COVER IMAGES: DCEW; SHUTTERSTOCK



Evan Gershkovich

Yekaterinburg, Russia **US journalist sentenced**

A Russian court sentenced Evan Gershkovich, a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, to 16 years in prison on charges of spying for the US. Gershkovich was arrested during a reporting trip in March 2023 and has been imprisoned ever since. His family, his employer, and the US government called the trial a "sham" and vowed to fight for his release.



Protesters in Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh **Rule changed after protests**

Bangladesh's top court has changed a rule about employment after student protests. The rule reserved 56% of government jobs for specific groups of people, including 30% for relatives of those who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence from Pakistan in 1971. Protesters argued that it was unfair to people outside those categories, especially because youth unemployment is high. Now 7% of jobs in the government will be reserved.



Some of the rare eggs

Tasmania, Australia **Illegal egg collection seized**

A collection of 3,404 rare eggs worth more than \$260,000 was discovered in Tasmania during an investigation into illegal bird trading. Some of the eggs are believed to be from rare species that are at risk of extinction, including the swift parrot and the forty-spotted pardalote, which is found only on Tasmania's Bruny Island. An agreement among more than 180 countries protects endangered species from being bought and sold.



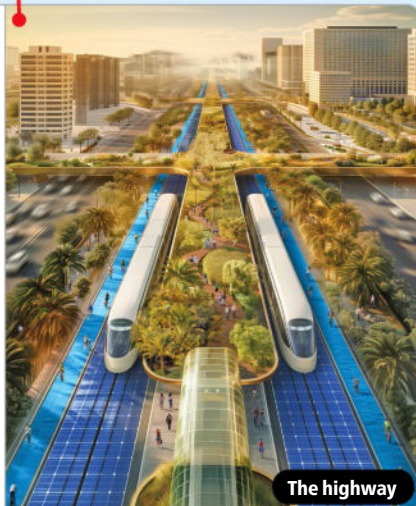
The whale

Otago, New Zealand **Rare whale found on shore**

What appears to be an extremely rare spade-toothed whale has been discovered on a beach in Otago, on New Zealand's South Island. Spade-toothed whales live in the deep ocean, and one has never been spotted alive at sea. Although the whale that washed up on shore had died, scientists said they look forward to studying it to confirm and learn more about its species.

Dubai, United Arab Emirates **Plans for a green highway**

A design company called URB has revealed plans to transform a major road into a 40-mile-long, eco-friendly highway. The project features a tram line powered by solar panels, which could also provide electricity to nearby homes. Alongside it are lanes for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. The plans also include planting one million trees to help cool down the city and provide cleaner air.



The highway



The big debate

Should private citizens go to space?

Some say space tourism is an incredible opportunity. Others think it's a big risk.

What you need to know

- In 2004, the first privately built crewed spacecraft went to space.
- In 2022, the first spaceflight with a crew of all private citizens took off.
- That year, for the first time, NASA sent a crew on a private spaceship to the International Space Station.
- Most Americans say they would not be interested in going to space and orbiting Earth.
- A trip to space for a private citizen could cost up to \$500,000.



From the 1950s to the early 2000s, American space exploration was overseen by NASA, the US space agency, and funded by the government. NASA trained former military pilots and scientists to be professional astronauts. In recent years, however, private companies like Blue Origin, SpaceX, and Virgin Galactic have been launching their own trips to space with private citizens aboard. Business leaders, explorers, and TV stars have paid huge sums to go into orbit. Some people say it's an exciting new era in space exploration, but others think sending untrained people to space is a big mistake. What do you think? Should private citizens go to space?

Yes—space belongs to everyone

Sending private citizens into space can enhance our knowledge without requiring NASA to spend money. Government funds could pay for other things that would better serve Americans. Plus, private companies that go to space develop and test new technology and create jobs and revenue. And regular people get a chance to contribute to society. They can do experiments in space and help scientists learn how spaceflight affects the human body. People who have been to space say it's a profoundly moving experience that inspires deep appreciation for our planet. If private citizens want to go and can pay for it, they should be able to.

No—the risks are out of this world

Spaceflight is dangerous. A recent study of private citizens who have done it found that they all showed negative health effects after three days in space. Professional astronauts are likely to have better training and be better prepared for the hazards that come with spaceflight. Space tourism can also be bad for the environment. Studies have found that the rockets launched by private space companies damage the atmosphere and cause other forms of pollution. And the people leading the push for private space exploration are some of the richest people in the world. Their money could be put to better use helping people on our planet.

YES

Three reasons private citizens should go to space

- 1 If private companies pay for space exploration, the US government saves money it could use for other things.
- 2 Regular people can make important contributions that will benefit humankind.
- 3 Going to space is an awe-inspiring journey that should be available to anyone who can afford it.

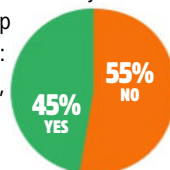
NO

Three reasons private citizens should not go to space

- 1 Spaceflight is dangerous and is best left to professional astronauts.
- 2 Private companies sending rockets and other equipment to space can cause harm to the environment.
- 3 The billions of dollars spent on private space travel could be used to support important causes on Earth.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if streets should be closed so kids can play. More than half of you voted to keep streets open: 55% said no, and 45% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think private citizens should go to space or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Unveiling Earth's past

Maya Wei-Haas takes readers on a rock-learning journey with her new book.

As an explorer, scientist, and author, Maya Wei-Haas uses storytelling and scientific insight to help people foster a deeper appreciation for the planet. Her new illustrated book, *What a Rock Can Reveal*, which she wrote for kids, is about the history and importance of rocks and geological formations.

Growing up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Wei-Haas, age 37, loved exploring nature. After collecting pebbles on the playground, she and her brother would make up scientific names for them. "Science helped me understand the world in a way that nothing else really did," she told *The Week Junior*.

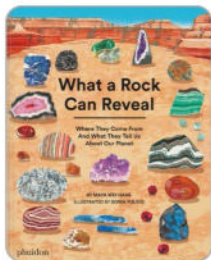
Wei-Haas earned a degree in geology (the study of rocks and minerals) from Smith College and a doctorate in Earth science at

Ohio State University. She pursued a career in science journalism because she felt writing was a way to engage others. Wei-Haas has written for publications including *Science* and *The New York Times*.

When she was putting together *What a Rock Can Reveal*, Wei-Haas wanted it to feel like a series of adventures rather than a textbook. One spread features a story about traveling down a river to show how rocks shape its flow, for example. Another, set atop a volcano, explains how lava

turns into rocks. The book was illustrated by Sonia Pulido, and Wei-Haas was excited to collaborate with her on the vibrant artwork.

In showcasing millions of years of Earth's geologic history, Wei-Haas said she hopes the book "inspires kids to want to protect that landscape a little bit more."



Wei-Haas' book



Maya Wei-Haas

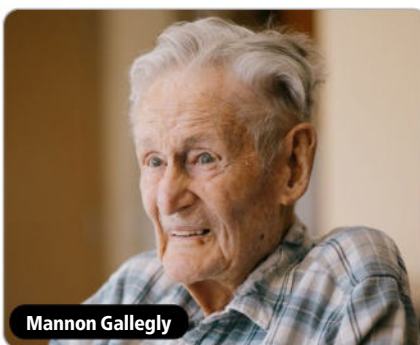
WOW!
A meteorite found in Algeria in 2020 is estimated to be 4.6 billion years old.

TV icon set to retire

Charles Barkley, a former NBA star who then became a celebrated sports commentator, announced that after 25 years on the air, the 2024–2025 NBA season will be his last. Barkley, age 61 and from Alabama, was an NBA player from 1984 to 2000 as a member of the Philadelphia 76ers, Phoenix Suns, and Houston Rockets. He joined TNT's long-running show *Inside the NBA* in 2000 and is known for his direct and fiery opinions. Of his work with his "NBA family," Barkley said, "My heart is full with joy and gratitude."



Charles Barkley



Mannon Gallegly

A seeding success

Mannon Gallegly, a 101-year-old plant scientist based in West Virginia, has dedicated more than 70 years to developing tomato seeds for home gardeners. This year marked the release of his final variety, "Mannon's Majesty," which quickly gained popularity among followers of Gallegly's tomatoes. Raised in rural Arkansas, Gallegly began breeding tomatoes in 1950 at West Virginia University and created three tomatoes admired for their look and taste. University volunteers helped Gallegly on "Mannon's Majesty," which had 2,000 email seed orders within days of its release.

OVERHEARD

“”



"I think that this tour has become my entire life."

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, age 34, on the upcoming end of *The Eras Tour*, the global sensation that began in March 2023 and has since become the highest-grossing tour in history



Animals and the environment

FANCY FEET

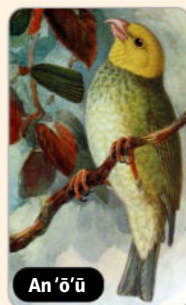
Lynx can spread their toes wide and use their large paws like snowshoes to walk over snowy ground.



An Iberian lynx

A call for bird detectives

Researchers are asking bird lovers to pick up their binoculars and look for 126 species that haven't been seen



An 'ō'ū

in the wild in 10 years or more, such as the Hawaiian 'ō'ū. Experts created the List of Lost Birds (searchforlostbirds.org) so people can search for the birds and share their findings.

Iberian lynx saved from extinction

Conservationists recently received the good news that the Iberian lynx, a medium-sized wildcat, has returned from near-extinction. Found throughout the mountainous Iberian Peninsula in Europe, this lynx was once considered the world's most endangered feline, but recent efforts have helped increase its population.

The Iberian lynx was first seen in Western Europe in the early 1800s. During the 1900s, the population began to steadily decline due to loss of land, human activity, and the disappearance of the big cat's primary food source, the European rabbit. By 2001, 62 adult Iberian lynx were living in the wild.

In 2002, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the Iberian lynx as critically endangered on its Red List, which tracks threatened species.



European rabbits are the lynx's main prey.

Several conservation groups came together to save the breed from extinction. Their efforts included protecting and restoring crucial habitats, breeding lynx in captivity, and working to reduce lynx deaths due to traffic accidents and poaching (illegal hunting). One project sought to prevent diseases in European rabbits,

raising the rabbit population to ensure the wildcats had enough food. Teams also reintroduced more than 400 lynx to the Iberian Peninsula.

Now scientists are seeing the results of their efforts. In 2022, about 648 mature lynx were living in the wild in Spain and Portugal, which make up most of the Iberian Peninsula. Today there are more than 2,000 lynx. The IUCN has upgraded the Iberian lynx's classification to "vulnerable," which means the species' population has increased significantly but still needs to be protected.

Experts are still concerned about the lynx's future. Environmental changes, diseases, human activity, and shifts in the rabbit population will probably continue to affect the species' growth. Still, conservationists are encouraged by this milestone. Francisco Javier Salcedo Ortiz, who coordinated some of the efforts to save the Iberian lynx, said this was "the greatest recovery of a cat species ever achieved through conservation."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, Alaska

With volcanoes, glaciers, and evergreen forests, America's largest national park offers dramatic views and a breathtaking diversity of wildlife. About 35% of the park is covered in glaciers, including the 127-mile-long Bagley Icefield, and some parts of the remote wilderness are only accessible by boat or plane. Many animals live here, including Steller sea lions, Copper River salmon, black-billed magpies, moose, Dall sheep, and three species of bears. The park has one active volcano, Mount Wrangell, which last erupted in 1930.



A Dall sheep



ANCIENT ROOTS

Northern rātā trees have been known to live for up to 1,000 years.



The Walking Tree

Walking Tree wins top award

An ancient tree that looks as though it is strolling across the landscape has won first place at the annual tree of the year competition in New Zealand.

The 105-foot-tall tree is a northern rātā, one of New Zealand's tallest tree species. It is known as "The Walking Tree" because its two trunks, roots, and long branches make it look similar to an Ent, a tree-like creature from JRR Tolkien's series *The Lord of the Rings*.

Northern rātās start life as epiphytes (plants that grow on top of other trees) high in the forest canopy. As the plant grows, its

roots eventually reach the ground, where they wrap around the supporting tree completely, forming a massive trunk and root system. No one knows exactly how old The Walking Tree is, but its existence was documented on New Zealand's South Island by 1875. It is the last surviving tree in an area that was once covered with trees and shrubs until humans cut them down for farming.

The tree was the clear winner of the contest, receiving 42% of the votes. "It just strode out into the lead right from the very start," said organizer Brad Cadwallader.

Animal of the Week

Mandrill

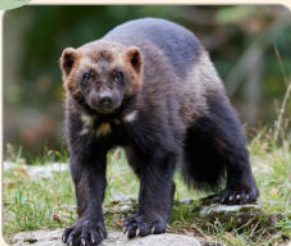


Guinness World Records has declared Nikki, a 37-year-old mandrill at Arizona's Phoenix Zoo, the world's oldest mandrill monkey living in captivity. To celebrate her big birthday, the zoo gave Nikki a special box filled with berry treats.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 20 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Rainforests in west-central Africa
- **SIZE:** Up to 3 feet; weighing 77 pounds
- **DIET:** Seeds, roots, fruits, nuts, small animals
- **FUN FACT:** Small groups often join together, forming hordes of as many as 1,200 mandrills.



Good week / Bad week



Wolverines

Over the next three years, 30 female wolverines and 15 males are being released in Colorado. Hunters wiped out the state's wolverine population more than 100 years ago, but a new law is now in place to protect them.



Vaquitas

In the latest population count, researchers saw six to eight vaquitas remaining in the Gulf of California. Previous surveys spotted about 10 of the critically endangered porpoises. Experts hope more vaquitas may be living in areas they didn't check.



Why do lyrebirds imitate other things instead of making their own noises? Willow, 9, Texas

Fiona Backhouse
Researcher,
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Lyrebirds imitate the sounds of other animals and also sing their own songs. Imitation takes more skill, so males use mimicry to show off and attract a mate. Females mimic the sounds of predators and mobbing bird flocks. This may scare animals away from raiding the nest.



A lyrebird

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at birds.cornell.edu.



A small island with

Alcatraz Island has a complex past that dates back hundreds of years.

A rocky California island in San Francisco Bay has been the site of a military fort, a prison, and a major Native American protest.

Early history of Alcatraz

The name Alcatraz comes from Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala, who named the island "Isla de los Alcatrazes" ("Island of the Pelicans") while exploring San Francisco Bay in 1775. Alcatrazes

eventually became Alcatraz. In 1850, shortly after California became part of the US, President Millard Fillmore declared the island a military reservation, and construction began on Fortress Alcatraz in 1853. The first lighthouse on the Pacific Coast opened on the island in 1854. The US Army took command of Fortress Alcatraz in 1859 and remained there for several decades. In 1907, in a sign of the island's future purpose, Fortress Alcatraz became a military prison.



Juan Manuel de Ayala



Al Capone

The prison years

Fortress Alcatraz was expensive to maintain, leading the Army to transfer responsibility for Alcatraz to the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 1933. During its time as a prison, Alcatraz was considered the strongest jail in America. No prisoner is confirmed to have successfully escaped Alcatraz and reached freedom. (See the box at right for details on one attempt.) The facility typically held between 260 and 275 people, including some of the country's most infamous criminals, such as the notorious gangster Al Capone. Due to high costs, the prison was eventually closed in 1963.



WOW!

There were 14 escape attempts, involving a total of 36 prisoners, at Alcatraz during its time as a federal prison.

DID YOU KNOW?

The maximum-security prison on Alcatraz was known as "The Rock."

Alcatraz Island is about 1.5 miles from the shore of San Francisco.

The 1962 escape from Alcatraz

The most well-known attempt to escape from Alcatraz was hatched by three men — Frank Morris and brothers John and Clarence Anglin — in 1962. They used crude tools to loosen the walls of their cells around the air vents. On June 11, after months of planning, Morris and the Anglin brothers made their getaway,

leaving dummies in their beds to fool the guards. From the island's shore, they launched a makeshift raft into the bay. What happened to them afterward is a mystery. Equipment believed to have been used by the escapees was later found, but no other traces of the men were ever discovered.





a rich history

LITERARY INSPIRATION

Alcatraz helped inspire Azkaban prison in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter fantasy series.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
ALCATRAZ ISLAND AREA 12 ACRES
1 1/2 MILES TO TRANSPORT DOCK
ONLY GOVERNMENT BOATS PERMITTED
OTHERS MUST KEEP OFF 200 YARDS
NO ONE ALLOWED ASHORE
WITHOUT A PASS



Activists on the island

Native American occupation

Once the prison had closed, Native American activists made efforts to claim Alcatraz for their people starting in 1964. In 1969, San Francisco's American Indian Center burned down. This prompted a group of college students and other activists, who called themselves "Indians of All Tribes," to begin occupying Alcatraz. They reclaimed the island in the name of Native Americans and wanted to establish a university and cultural center. The number of people living there began to decline, however, and the US government removed the last occupiers in June 1971. Today the occupation is recognized for drawing global attention to the mistreatment of Native Americans and inspiring further activism.

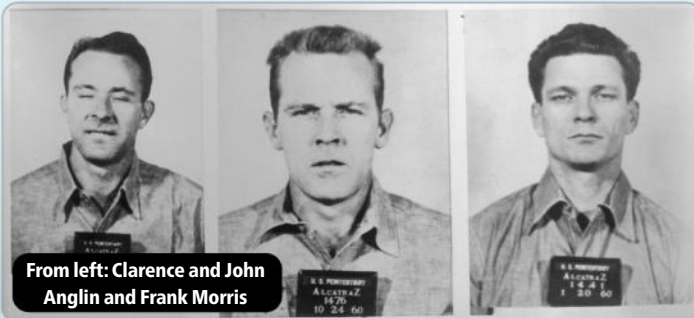
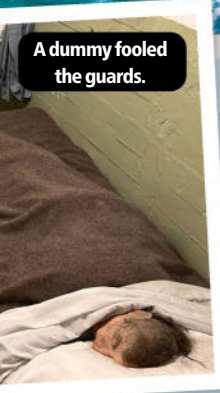
A ferry to Alcatraz



Modern Alcatraz Island

In 1972, President Richard Nixon created the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which includes Alcatraz Island. The site opened to the public in 1973. After taking a ferry across the water, visitors can tour the famous prison building. The island was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and named a National Historic Landmark in 1986. It also draws athletes seeking the challenge of making the swim across the bay. Today, Alcatraz is considered one of the top tourist destinations in the San Francisco area, drawing more than 1.4 million visitors each year.

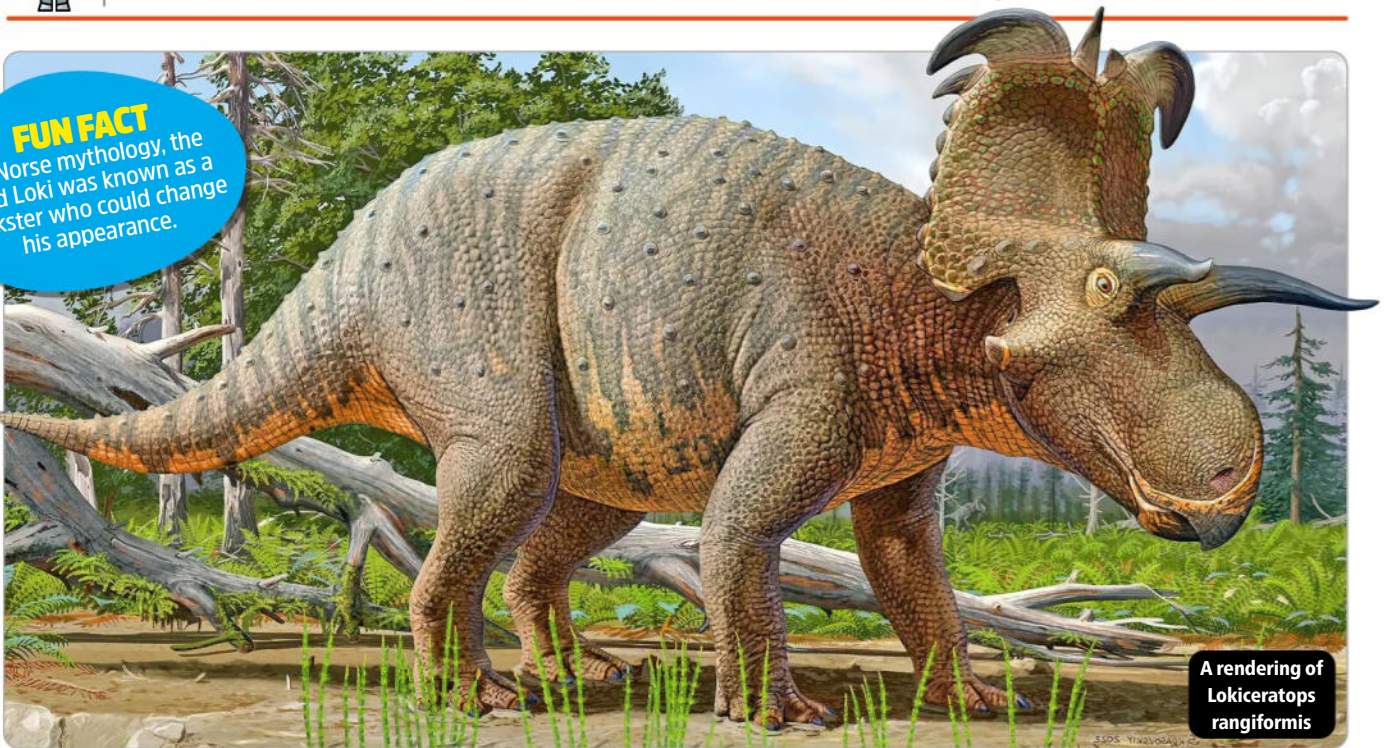
A dummy fooled the guards.



From left: Clarence and John Anglin and Frank Morris



FUN FACT
In Norse mythology, the god Loki was known as a trickster who could change his appearance.



A rendering of
Lokiceratops
rangiformis

New dinosaur named for Norse god

Scientists have identified a new dinosaur with huge, blade-like horns and a spike on its head. They named it *Lokiceratops rangiformis* after Loki, a mythical god who wears a helmet with curved horns. The plant-eating species was about 22 feet long, weighed more than 5 tons, and lived about 78 million years ago.

Lokiceratops belonged to a group of dinosaurs called ceratopsids, which includes the triceratops. Ceratopsids lived during the Cretaceous Period (146 million to 66 million years ago) and had long horns and bony head plates, called frills.

The team of researchers, led by scientists from the University of Utah, identified *Lokiceratops* through pieces of a skull found in Montana in 2019. As they pieced the skull back together, they realized the massive creature was different from other ceratopsids. For example, it did not have a nose horn but it did have two curving horns, shaped like paddles, on its frill. The frill itself was the largest ever seen on this kind of dinosaur and had an uneven spike in its center.

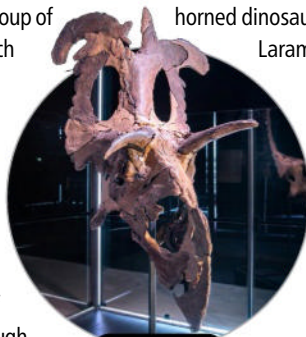
The team believes the dinosaur lived 12 million years before the *Triceratops* appeared. It

made its home in swamps and floodplains in what was an island continent called Laramidia, which is now western North America. Four other types of horned dinosaurs have been found in this region, although none have been found in other parts of North America. The researchers said this suggests that there was a greater diversity of horned dinosaurs like *Lokiceratops* living in Laramidia than scientists realized.

"Previously, paleontologists thought a maximum of two species of horned dinosaurs could coexist at the same place and time," said Mark Loewen, a lead researcher. "Incredibly, we have identified five living together at the same time."

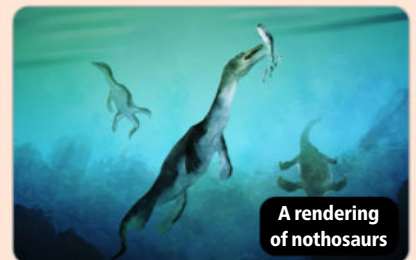
The *Lokiceratops* skull is now on display at the Museum of Evolution in Denmark. A copy of the skull is also

being exhibited at the Natural History Museum of Utah. "Reconstructing the skull of *Lokiceratops* from dozens of pieces was one of the most challenging projects my team and I have ever faced," said Brock Sisson, one of the study's authors. "But the thrill of bringing a 78-million-year-old dinosaur to life for the first time was well worth the effort."



The skull of
Lokiceratops

The oldest sea reptile



A rendering
of nothosaurs

Scientists have identified the oldest known fossil of a sea-dwelling reptile in the southern hemisphere (lower half of Earth). The vertebra (spinal bone) is from a 246-million-year-old creature called a nothosaur. It was found on New Zealand's Southern Island. Nothosaurs were up to 23 feet long with long necks, sharp teeth, and paddle-like limbs for swimming.

Sea reptiles first appeared after a mass extinction event 252 million years ago, which wiped out more than 95% of sea creatures. This fossil has caused scientists to reconsider how nothosaurs might have spread across the planet after they emerged. The team that identified the fossil said nothosaurs first appeared near the equator (imaginary line around Earth's center), then quickly spread north and south.



Ancient relics recovered in Chinese shipwrecks

Experts have discovered more than 900 ancient Chinese artifacts at two shipwreck sites at the bottom of the South China Sea. The objects are from the Ming Dynasty, which ran from 1368 to 1644, and include ceramic dishes, porcelain containers, and copper coins.

The two ships were found in 2022, about 5,000 feet underwater and 14 miles apart. Scientists believe they were trade ships carrying goods.

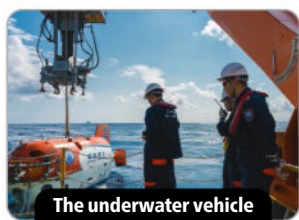
A team of ocean recovery experts used an underwater vehicle carrying a crew to explore the sites. Remotely operated vehicles with robotic arms were used to collect the artifacts. High-definition cameras and 3D laser scanners captured video and images of the shipwrecks.

Researchers determined that the ships sailed during different periods of the Ming Dynasty, ranging from 1487 to 1521. There were about 10,000 items total between the two ships. The team gathered 890 from the first

shipwreck, which they believe sank while carrying porcelain from Jingdezhen, a city that has been known for many years as the "porcelain capital" of China.

They collected 38 items from the second ship, including deer antlers and pottery.

China's National Cultural Heritage Administration said in a statement that the shipwrecks served as "important witnesses to [China's] trade and cultural exchanges."



The underwater vehicle that carried a crew



BLUE BEAUTY
The Ming Dynasty was known for a distinctive style of blue and white porcelain that was famous around the world.

Ming Dynasty artifacts found in the two shipwrecks

The HYRYD bike



E-bike is powered by hydrogen

A Swiss company has created a sustainable and eco-friendly e-bike. The new HYRYD runs on hydrogen power, rather than lithium batteries, which are usually used in e-bikes. Lithium batteries take a long time to charge and use materials that harm the environment.

Hydrogen power is clean energy that consists of fuel cells created by combining hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity. It doesn't produce carbon emissions that trap

heat in Earth's atmosphere. It's also renewable, meaning it comes from a natural source and will not run out.

The HYRYD's frame holds a small hydrogen water tank that can power it for nearly 40 miles, at up to 14 miles per hour. The tank can be refilled in 3 to 10 seconds.

The company that makes the HYRYD said its design is also simpler and more cost-effective than regular e-bikes. It will have lower maintenance needs and costs.



An octopus-like suction cup



The robotic sucker (left) and a real octopus arm

Scientists in the UK created a new feature for robots that's inspired by the suckers on octopus arms. The team studied the structure of octopus suckers to understand how they work. Using their findings, they designed a robotic sucker, which copies the same behavior.

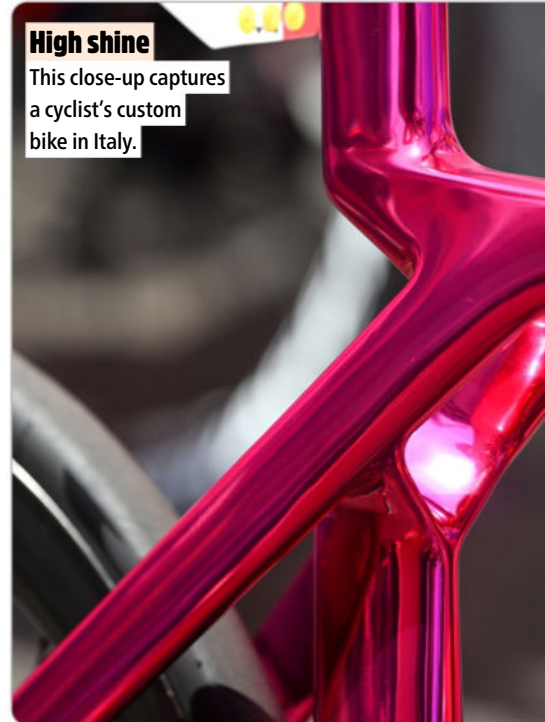
The suction cup is soft, like octopus arm muscles. It comes with artificial fluid that behaves like the natural mucus (sticky liquid) octopuses produce, which helps them hold onto things. The robotic suction cup can grasp rough, curved, and heavy rocks.



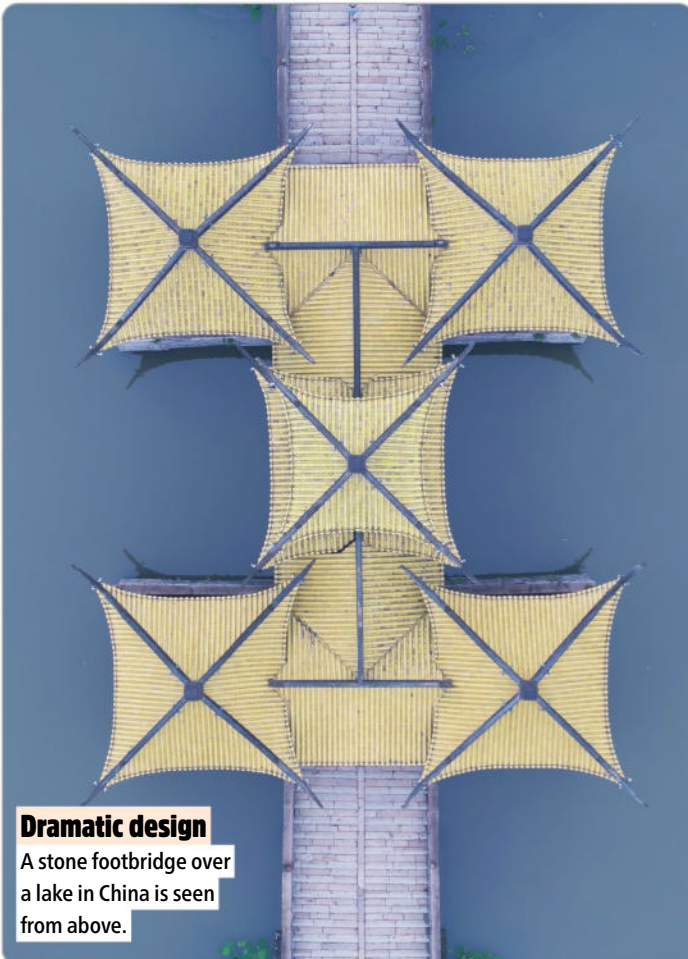
Photos of the week



Rainbow bright
Lights are on display at a botanic garden in Australia.



High shine
This close-up captures a cyclist's custom bike in Italy.



Dramatic design
A stone footbridge over a lake in China is seen from above.





Rest stop

A dragonfly sits on a lotus flower in India.



Sea of purple

A lavender garden blooms in Turkey.



Green scene

Tourists in China walk through a lotus pond.



Sports



ROOKIE RECORD

On July 17, Caitlin Clark had 19 assists in a game, a new WNBA record.

Team WNBA

WNBA star gets doll



As part of the 65th anniversary of Barbie, Mattel is making a Role Model doll of retired WNBA star Sue Bird (above). The Seattle Storm point guard was a 13-time All-Star and won four WNBA titles. She said she liked Barbies as a child and was "really excited" about the doll.

Exciting game between WNBA All-Stars

WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) All-Star Weekend 2024 took place in Phoenix, Arizona, on July 19 and July 20. It ended with the WNBA All-Star Game, a matchup between the USA Basketball Women's National Team (Team USA), an Olympics-bound squad filled with many of today's best and most experienced stars, and Team WNBA, a group of other top players including rookies Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese. Team WNBA won, 117–109.

The first half of the All-Star game was a close contest, and Team USA was up, 54–52, at halftime. They held Team WNBA's Arike Ogunbowale, who plays for the Dallas Wings,

scoreless for the first half, but she dominated the second half. She scored 21 points in the third quarter, including five three-pointers, to help

Team WNBA build an 88–79 lead. Despite a strong effort from Team USA's

Breanna Stewart, a New York Liberty star, and A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces, Team USA was unable to make up the deficit in the final quarter.

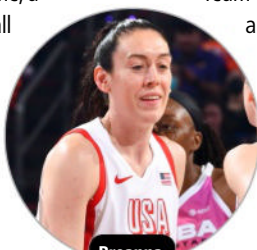
Stewart finished with 31 points and 10 rebounds, while Wilson had 22 points and six rebounds. Ogunbowale led all scorers with 34 points.

Reese and Clark were strong in their All-Star game debuts. Reese, who plays for the Chicago Sky, had 12 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. She

is the first rookie to have a double-double (double digits in two statistical categories) in an All-Star game. Clark, who plays for the Indiana Fever, had four points and 10 assists. Ogunbowale was named Most Valuable Player.

Another Team WNBA standout was Allisha Gray, who plays for the Atlanta Dream. She scored 16 points and had five steals in the game. The night before, she won the WNBA Skills Challenge and the 3-Point Contest, becoming the first WNBA player to capture both titles in the same season.

The All-Star game was a tune-up for Team USA, who hope to win an eighth straight gold at the Olympics in Paris, France. The women's 5x5 competitions begin on July 28. Meanwhile, the WNBA is on a break until August 15. The Liberty, who have a 21–4 record, are currently in first place.



Breanna Stewart

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

CYCLING

On July 21, Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia won the Tour de France, the most prestigious cycling race in the world. He finished six minutes and 17 seconds ahead of Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark. It is Pogacar's third Tour title. Meanwhile, Eritrea's Biniam Girmay became the first Black African to win the Tour's green jersey. It goes to the rider with the most points, which are earned through sprints and stage wins.



Tadej Pogacar

AUTO RACING

For the first time in his career, NASCAR star Kyle Larson won the Brickyard 400, which was held on July 21. It is one of the biggest races on the NASCAR circuit.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani hit his 30th home run of the season in a 9–6 win over the Boston Red Sox on July 21. The ball flew 473 feet and out of the park. The same day, Jorge Soler of the San Francisco Giants hit a 478-foot homer, a record for this year.



Xander
Schauffele with
the Claret Jug

WOW!

US golfers won all four major men's tournaments this year, for the first time since 1982.

American golfer takes British Open

The 2024 Open Championship was played from July 18 to July 21 at the Royal Troon Golf Club in South Ayrshire, Scotland. The tournament, also known as the British Open, is the last of the four most prestigious tournaments played every season in men's professional golf. Xander Schauffele of the US won by two strokes to secure his second major of the season. He is the first player since 2018 to win two majors in one year.

This was the 152nd Open Championship, the oldest continually run golf tournament in golf. It is always played on a links course, a style that is usually set along a shoreline and has few trees and an uneven terrain. Royal Troon, founded in 1878, last hosted the tournament in 2016.

Schauffele entered the final day of the Open tied for second place and one shot behind the

leader, South African Thriston Lawrence. On the back nine (the second half of the course), Schauffele made four birdies (one less than the expected number of strokes) in six holes, which helped him reach the top of the leader board. Although other players remained in contention, Schauffele's consistent play kept him from falling back. He finished the round with a 65, the best score of his four rounds. After accepting the Claret Jug, the trophy awarded to the Open Championship winner, he said the victory was "something I've dreamt of for a very long time."

Schauffele, ranked number two in the world behind fellow American Scottie Scheffler, will now compete for the US at the Olympics along with Scheffler and sixth-ranked Collin Morikawa. Schauffele is the defending Olympic champion.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Grace Hartman

AGE: 20 SPORT: CROSS COUNTRY/
TRACK AND FIELD
TEAM: NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sweet start I was a tennis player for 10 years, but when I heard that my friends on the track team ran to Dairy Queen every Friday, I had to join in. I began running track in seventh grade, but I didn't start running seriously until high school. I loved how it gave me an hour a day to just let my mind wander without distraction.

Dream team Running is so mentally and physically demanding. My teammates commit a large portion of their lives to honing their craft, and seeing people I love and respect do it all the time motivates me to get better as well.

Training plan Most days I run anywhere from 10 to 14 miles. I probably ran about 20 to 30 miles a week in high school. It's important to allow your body to grow and develop into the sport.

Calming force I deal with a lot of anxiety, and it's been beneficial to speak with a therapist. He got me into things like mindfulness meditations.

Meet rituals I like to race in colorful socks. If I have a disappointing day, I allow myself to be upset for 24 hours. Learn what you need to, then move on.

Top finish From a team standpoint, my biggest accomplishment was winning the 2023 NCAA Cross Country title. It was our third straight!

Her advice Don't ever give up on your dreams, but also don't force anything too early. Enjoying time with friends and family, focusing on school, doing things you enjoy, and working hard in your



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Jason Mauss**

Team: **Jersey Village Stars (swimming)**

"Coach Mauss has been an amazing swim coach the past three years, and I'm sure all the team would agree! He has the best drills, and he lets us play sharks and minnows. He has helped me with my breaststroke the most this year. He always tells me, 'Pull, breathe, kick, glide.' He's always on the side of the pool cheering the loudest for us while we are racing, and he has the best candy to congratulate us! He is just the best coach!" Meredith, 8, Texas



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment

DID YOU KNOW?

The Philadelphia Museum of Art, which dates back to 1876, has more than 200,000 pieces in its collection.



Paintings by Mary Cassatt



Mary Cassatt's art on display

A Philadelphia museum is showcasing works by the American artist who is famous for depicting women and children.

The famous American artist Mary Cassatt is the subject of a major exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) in Pennsylvania. *Mary Cassatt at Work* takes a fresh look at many of her paintings, pastels, and prints and includes discoveries about how she made her art. It will close on September 8 and open at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco's Legion of Honor on October 5.

Cassatt was born in Pennsylvania in 1844 and died

in 1926. She was the only American member of the French Impressionists, a group of artists known for a style that reflected an artist's own view of a scene, as well as its colors and light. But Cassatt's focus was unlike anyone else's.



Mary Cassatt in 1913

"Unlike many male artists of her time who portrayed women in passive roles, Cassatt depicted their activity in scenes of bathing a child or driving a carriage, challenging traditional representations," Jennifer Thompson, the show's co-curator (person who selects art), told Fine Art Shippers.

Inspiration for the exhibition came from letters between Cassatt and her family that referenced the effort it took for her to make money by selling her art. Research showed that Cassatt worked quickly and traveled with wet canvases that had pins in their corners to keep them from touching. The holes still exist today. To understand her creative process, PMA experts examined some of her pieces with special lights and X-rays to see how she began them and changed them. "We're hoping that this project will inspire museums and collectors to start to look closely at their Cassatt paintings," Thompson told Artnet.

3 facts about the artist

European life

Mary Cassatt attended art school in the US, then studied painting across Europe. She settled in Paris, France (right), in 1874. One of her close friends was the famous painter Edgar Degas.



Japanese influence

After seeing an exhibit of Japanese woodblock art in Paris, Cassatt began to make prints in that style. The pieces, such as *Maternal Caress* (right), are noteworthy for having a two-dimensional look and feature scenes of home life that were common in Japanese art.



Chicago disaster

Early in her career, Cassatt spent time in Chicago, Illinois. She was there during the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Her artwork, which had been on display at a jewelry store, was destroyed.



A depiction of the Great Chicago Fire



Time Bandits

TALL TOWER

The world's largest clock tower is in Saudi Arabia and is nearly 2,000 feet tall.

An adventure through time

The new Apple TV+ series *Time Bandits* is a quirky comedy about an 11-year-old history enthusiast who finds a portal in his bedroom and ends up on an adventure with a group of time-traveling thieves. The first two episodes are now streaming, and new ones will be released weekly through August 21.

Time Bandits is based on a 1981 film of the same name. It was co-written by two members of the famous British comedy troupe Monty Python and directed by one of them. It is a cult classic, and two of its fans are longtime friends and collaborators. One is Taika Waititi, an actor and the director of *Thor: Ragnarok*, and the other is Jemaine Clement, an actor who voiced Tamatoa the giant crab in *Moana*. Clement saw *Time Bandits* when he was young and told *The Week Junior* he liked it when Kevin, the main

character, went back in time. "I remember sitting there going, 'I want to do that,'" he said.

Waititi and Clement co-created the series with Iain Morris, a writer and producer. As they were coming up with their ideas, Waititi told *The Week Junior*, "We made a big list of all different time periods that we wanted these guys to go and visit." The group's travels will include trips to the Ice Age, medieval England and Africa, 1800s China, and the 1990s. They encounter historical figures along the way.

Waititi said he thinks history is fascinating. "I've always loved the stories because those are original stories about things that actually happened—which makes it even more exciting." Still, the series is not only about learning about the past, he said, "but also just embracing your sense of adventure."



Jemaine Clement (left) and Taika Waititi



READER RECOMMENDS



The Iron Giant PG (Rent on major streaming platforms)

"This animated science-fiction movie would be great for kids who like robots, animation, and friendship. It is loosely based on a novel by Ted Hughes published in 1968. It is about a 50-foot-tall robot from outer space that crashes into Earth and a 9-year-old boy named Hogarth, who finds the robot in the woods of his small Maine town. The two become best friends and go on adventures together. People from the military think the giant is evil and come after him. In the end, the robot sacrifices himself to protect Hogarth's town." Quinn, 10, Indiana

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Barbecue Showdown (Netflix)

It's season three of this series that features barbecue cooks from across the US competing for \$50,000. There are nine contestants, and in each episode, one is eliminated by the judges based on a challenge such as infusing global cuisines into a dish or smoking rare meats.



Bluey Minisodes (Disney+)

Seven special short episodes of the wildly popular Australian animated series about a blue heeler puppy named Bluey and his little sister, Bingo, were recently released. They include tales about their dad buying a faulty robot and storytime with their grandmother.



Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom: Protecting the Wild (Peacock) (NBC.com)

Follow animal experts Peter Gros and Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant as they check out efforts to save endangered species. Their stops include Florida, where a sea turtle is being rehabilitated, and Wyoming, where they see black-footed ferrets.



On screen

FUN FACT

The Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California, is known for its unusual design that was intended to keep ghosts away.



A haunted Luigi game gets updated

Luigi's Mansion 2 HD is a new action-adventure platform game. It was recently released exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

The game stars the famous Nintendo character Luigi, brother of Nintendo star Mario. It is a remake of the 2013 Nintendo 3DS game Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon and has fresh graphics and updated character models. It also contains many small adjustments that make it feel like Luigi's Mansion 3, the most recent game in the franchise.

While Luigi's Mansion 3 keeps the action to one giant haunted house, Luigi's Mansion 2 HD sends the nervous plumber on a mission to deal with a whole world of ghost-filled homes. Usually the ghosts are friendly and fun, but after something called the Dark Moon shatters, they become angry and hostile. Professor E. Gadd, who studies the

ghosts, makes an emergency call to Luigi, summoning him back to Evershade Valley to take care of the situation.

There are five mansions in the game with different settings and challenges: Gloomy Manor, Haunted Towers, Old Clockworks, Secret Mine, and Treacherous Mansion. Each one has pieces of the Dark Moon that Luigi needs to collect. Rather than focusing on one level at a time, the game sends him on specific mansion missions then back to the professor's lab.

This keeps the game interesting and challenges Luigi to use his ghost vacuum, the Poltergust 5000, in all kinds of ways.

The deeper into the game you get, the more upgrades you can buy with coins left behind by the ghosts. With the Strobull light attachment, for example, you'll be able to help Luigi make Evershade Valley a safe place to live again.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

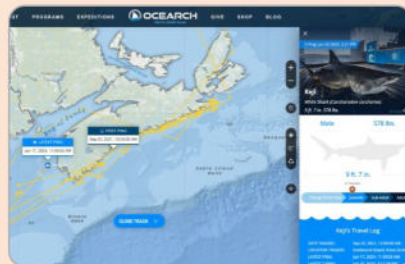
IS IT BETTER TO WALK OR RUN IN THE RAIN?

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Rain

Have you ever forgotten an umbrella and thought about how not to get extra soaked? This video from the YouTube channel MinutePhysics uses simple science to explain what happens when you walk and run in rain — and which is the smarter choice.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



OCEARCH

ocearch.org/tracker/

Ocearch is an organization that conducts research on animals such as sharks and sea turtles. It tags the animals to study their movements, diet, and health, and their locations appear on this website's interactive map. If you're headed to a beach, it's fun to know what might be in the area.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

PURPLE ROCKET

Major podcast platforms

The main characters in this award-winning story series are a set of twins with a magical globe. They go on adventures that include a visit to a world where dinosaurs roam and a trip to outer space. Each narrated tale is told in multiple parts that stretch across several episodes.





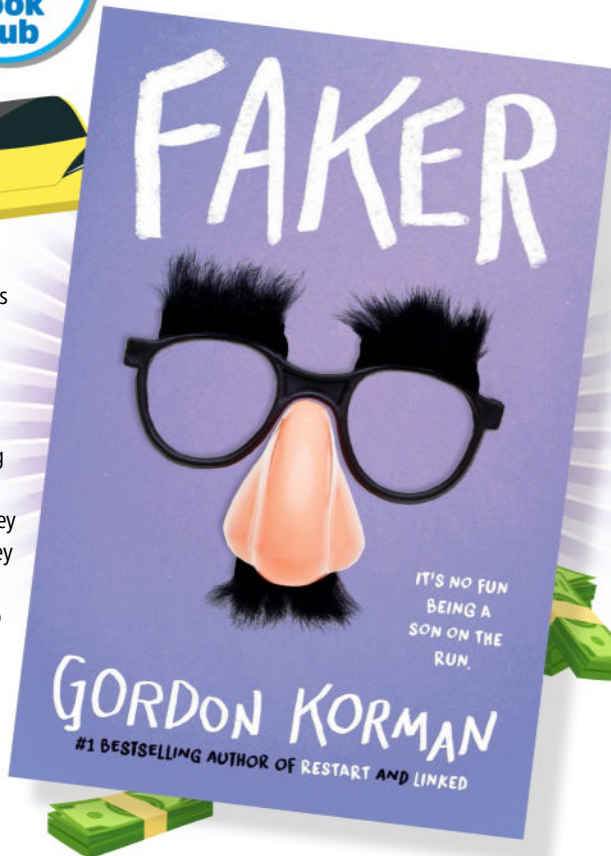
OUR BOOK CLUB PICK FOR AUGUST

Faker

By Gordon Korman

(Scholastic Press)

Trey and his younger sister are caught up in their father's schemes to invest in fake businesses. Ever since 12-year-old Trey was in kindergarten, his dad has been swindling his wealthy classmates' parents. When people start asking questions, the family flees to another country for a vacation. They return with new identities, and Trey and his sister start new schools. After the last scheme, they end up in Tennessee, and Trey's dad makes him a "full partner" in his deceptive business dealings. This time, his dad creates a flashy fake prototype of an electric car and wants people to invest in his start-up company. Trey and his younger sister introduce him to friends whose parents have a lot of money. But after taking an ethics class, Trey starts to question his involvement. He becomes more uneasy when his dad, who promised to only accept money from rich families, takes a check from a parent who doesn't have funds to spare. Will Trey keep going along with his dad's business? This story is full of twists and gives you a lot to ponder about loyalty, responsibility, and values.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Faker is a story that raises moral dilemmas while also being an entertaining tale about sibling rivalry and friendships. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

What consequences should Trey's dad face for deceiving investors?

Should Trey be held responsible for his role in his father's schemes?

If Trey shared his family's secret with you, what would you have done?

Would you want to be friends with Trey?

Do you think stealing from people who have a lot of money is just as wrong as stealing from those who have less? Explain your answer.

How did Trey's sister affect his decision to confront his dad?

How do you feel about the book's conclusion?



WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Faker*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with *Faker* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on August 16. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.



JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Gordon Korman created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.



Ask the author



Gordon Korman published his first book when he was 14 years old. Since then, he's written more than 100 books, including the best-sellers *Restart* and *Operation Do-Over*. *The Week Junior* spoke to him about *Faker*, his latest work.

Did you plot out *Faker* before you started writing?

Yes! This story, unlike some of my others, went exactly as I'd planned. Trey's evolution from someone who toed the line for his father to someone who pushed back against him was exactly what I wanted it to be.

What do you do when you get writer's block?

I'll talk to my mom! She wrote a humor column for a newspaper when I was growing up, and she's a huge reader. Relying on my mom and my editor to keep me going in the right direction is one of the reasons I've been able to publish so many books. If you get stuck, ask for help.

Should you finish reading a book if you're not into it?

No! Don't be embarrassed or ashamed to give up reading a book after three or four chapters if you haven't felt a connection. You'll probably end up reading more if you move on to a book that's a better fit for you.

What are you working on now?

I'm working on a new book about a young boy being raised in a retirement community. It's titled *Old School* and will be published next year.

How would you spend a day in New York City?

I'd take my oldest son to a Yankees game because he loves that team. Being from Canada, I grew up as a Toronto Blue Jays fan, but it's hard to root against your kids.





How to...

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2023, about 4 million people in the US went paddleboarding.



Try out paddleboarding

Have fun and improve your strength and balance with this popular water activity.

Stand up paddling (also called paddleboarding or SUP) is a recreational water sport with roots in Hawaii in the 1940s. In recent years, it has soared in popularity across the country. SUP is a fun way for kids and families to get out on the water and enjoy the outdoors. You can even find competitive paddleboard racing competitions. If you've been curious about the sport, here's how to get started.

Know how it works

Paddlers typically start out in a kneeling position on a sturdy floating board in the calm waters of a lake, pond, or ocean. They hold a single long paddle in both hands, then dip the oar's blade into the water and pull it backward to propel the board forward. Alternating strokes on each side helps steer the board. When they are comfortably paddling and picking up speed, they stand up to continue paddling. To keep balanced, it helps to stand up straight and look ahead, not down at your feet.

Get the right equipment

Paddleboards are made of foam or resin and come in a variety of sizes for kids and adults. Some boards are

inflatable. You will need to wear a swimsuit and a life jacket. It's a good idea to also wear sunscreen or a long-sleeved shirt and a hat to protect yourself from the sun. A rental facility or paddling clinic can loan you a youth-sized board, paddle, and life jacket. Many outdoor stores also rent equipment.

Take a class

Have a parent help you search online for a youth stand up paddling clinic at a beach, lake, or pond in your area. For your first few times, aim to practice in calm, shallow water.

You can take a beginner's lesson at a local paddleboard center, which will also provide the equipment. You will learn how to climb onto the board in shallow water, move from your knees to a standing position, and use the paddle correctly. You will also learn to attach a leash from the board to your ankle. This keeps your board from floating away if you do fall into the water.

Keep practicing

As you gain more experience, you'll learn how to steer, turn, and come to a stop. The most important thing to remember—besides safety—is to have fun!



Begin on your knees.

Paddle on land



Land paddling, which is also called skate poling, is just what it sounds like—paddling a board on the ground instead of on the water. Here's how to ride safely.

Start on a long board. A longer board will have wheels set wide apart and feel more stable to stand on than a shorter board. With an adult, try out a few in a paddling shop, along with a stick.

Gear up. Protect yourself from tumbles. Wear a helmet, wrist pads, knee and elbow pads, and closed-toe shoes.

Learn from a pro. With an adult's help, ask a paddling or skateboard shop about lessons with an experienced instructor.



FUN FACT

Hawaiian rolls were first made in the 1950s at a bakery in Hilo, Hawaii.



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the oven.

Make pull-apart cheesy ham sliders

Ingredients

- 12-pack Hawaiian sweet rolls (such as King's Hawaiian brand)
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons pickle relish
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- ½ pound sliced Havarti cheese
- 1 pound deli ham

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Use a bread knife to slice the block of rolls in half horizontally, keeping them intact as best you can. Fit the bottom halves into a 9-inch square baking pan.
2. In a small bowl, stir together the mayonnaise and pickle relish. Spread the mixture over the cut sides of the rolls. In another small bowl, add the melted butter, mustard, garlic powder, and sesame seeds and stir to combine. Set the butter mixture aside.
3. Layer half the cheese over the bottom rolls in the baking pan. Fold ham slices to fit onto the roll, then place the ham on top of the cheese. Cover ham with the remaining cheese slices. Fit the top half of the rolls into the pan.
4. Pour the butter mixture over the rolls and bake for 20 minutes, or until the bread is golden and toasty and the cheese is melted. Carefully remove from the oven and serve immediately. Makes 12 sliders.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

SET UP YOUR OWN RAIN CATCHER

If you have plants in your home or outside, you know they need water to thrive. However, you don't have to always turn on your tap to water your plants. Instead, you can try to collect rainwater for your watering needs. This will reduce your reliance on water from your local source, which conserves it for use during drier periods. A simple way to harvest rainwater is to set up watering cans to collect water as it rains. Use the collected water to give plants a drink, then set the cans out again to gather water from the next rain. You can also talk to your family about getting a rain barrel, which collects larger amounts of rainwater to reuse.

Fill a can with collected rain.





Puzzles



Crisscross

Each of these kinds of fish fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters

COD

KOI

RAY

4 letters

HAKE

PIKE

SOLE

TUNA

5 letters

PERCH

SCROD

SHARK

TETRA

6 letters

BIGEYE

REMORA

7 letters

HALIBUT

8 letters

BLUEFISH

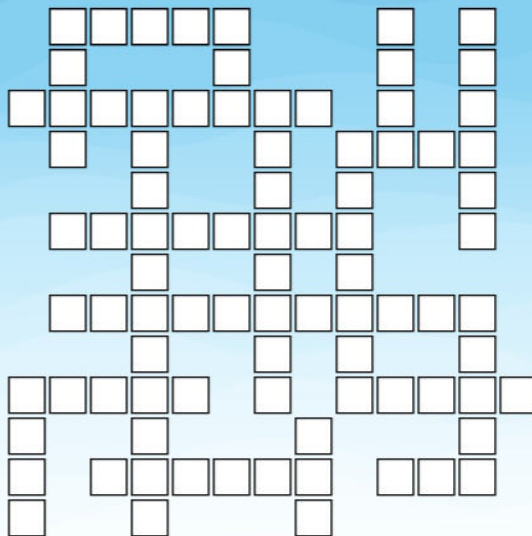
MACKEREL

STURGEON

11 letters

ELECTRIC EEL

STRIPED BASS



Take five

Five 5-letter words associated with winning are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

M	I	A	Z	T
A	R	D	M	D
C	W	R	A	E
F	H	I	R	L
P	E	A	S	P

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

	6		1		5
3				4	
			3		
		5			
	2				1
6		4		2	

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters T-O-P. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Sea creature found elsewhere on this page

T O P

2. Timer for a race

T O P

3. Capital of Kansas

T O P

4. Dinosaur whose name means "three-horned face"

T O P

5. Italian explorer Columbus

T O P

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

Spot the difference

These two underwater scenes appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





A cute commute

A subway sight for sore eyes

Public transit users in Boston, Massachusetts, are keeping an eye out for some smile-inducing train cars traveling along the tracks. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has attached googly eyes to five trains in the city's subway system, known locally as the "T." Two college graduates proposed the idea to cheer up commuters who are dealing with delays or other frustrations. "People can at least look into the eyes of the train when it finally arrives," they said, "and feel some love and understanding in their hearts."



They're neigh-ling it.

Hobby-horsing around

Have you heard of hobby-horsing? It's a sport that involves riding a stick horse—a wooden stick with a model horse head on one end. Competitors often give their "ponies" a name and a history and display their skills by clearing 3-foot-high jumps. At the 11th annual Hobby-Horse Championships in Seinäjoki, Finland, more than 250 riders from 22 countries competed in events including showjumping, dressage (performance of precise movements), and freestyle. Julia Mikkonen from the Finnish Hobby-Horse Association said, "It's growing every year."



The champion clover

The world's luckiest gardener

Finding a four-leaf clover is said to bring good luck, so a gardener in Japan could be the luckiest person ever after growing a 63-leaf clover. Yoshiharu Watanabe began breeding clover in 2012, mixing together different varieties of the plant to change its characteristics. His new, super-lucky clover beat the previous world record holder by seven leaves. Because the rare plant's leaves are smaller than a standard clover's, counting them took Watanabe more than an hour. He said he hopes the plant will "bring surprise and pleasure to people."



Did game day have a glow-up?

Baseball that glows in the dark

A marvelous spectacle is drawing crowds at a field in Virginia. Cosmic baseball is played at night in a stadium lit by ultraviolet (UV) "black lights," a type of light usually invisible to humans. Players wear special clothing and face paint that glow under UV light, and the bats and balls are also designed to glow. The idea came from Chris Martin, owner of the Tri-City Chili Peppers team, which played its first cosmic baseball games this season and has planned more for the future. Is this unusual sport real, or are we putting the story in a false light?*

*Real! Cosmic baseball games began this summer. "Before fans even get here, they are all excited," said Chris Martin. "They want to see if the guys can actually do it." "When the game begins, he said, 'the fans just erupt.'"



Your turn

Editor's note

As we were working on this issue of *The Week Junior*, President Joe Biden announced that he will not seek a second term in office during the election that will be held in November (p2). He had been campaigning for re-election since April 2023 and was expected to accept his party's official nomination at the Democratic National Convention in a few weeks. No President in US history has ever stepped down from a campaign so close to an election. Biden immediately endorsed his Vice President, Kamala Harris, to take his place on the ticket, and more than 200 other Democratic leaders did the same soon after. I hope our coverage this week helps you understand what happened and what's next. We also hope you will continue following the news as this rapidly changing campaign moves forward. These are unprecedented times for our nation, and our team is here to help you stay informed.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Fighting for canine health

“My family has fostered more than 300 dogs and cats since 2018. Through doing that, we got involved with a group called Second Chance Animal Alliance, which cares for dogs in need. Canine parvovirus is a dangerous disease that affects dogs, and I want to help them get diagnosed early. Our puppy Mustard died of the illness days after we adopted her. I have been selling pupsicles and dog treats to raise money for the nonprofit so they can help other dogs get parvo tests. I have also been talking about why it's important to foster dogs and get dogs vaccinated. My big, audacious goal is to donate \$2,000 for 100 parvo tests.”



Nico, 9, Mississippi

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

What word becomes smaller when you add two letters?

Small

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Classics for Kids Foundation

This organization helps schools create stringed instrument programs to educate and empower students through music. It awards grants to assist with purchasing instruments, including cellos, guitars, and ukuleles, for children in need. Since its founding in the 1990s, it has provided more than 6,000 instruments to music programs in all 50 states. Find out more at classicsforkids.org.



Your recipe videos!

The Week Junior is looking for videos of readers following recipes from our How To section so we can post them on social media. If you make one of our dishes, have an adult send a video of you in action—ideally 90 seconds or less—to hello@theweekjunior.com. Be sure to say in your video what you like most about the recipe you made! Find all our recipes at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I attended the soccer game featured in *The Week Junior* and got Lily Yohannes' first goal on video!" **Zoe, 12, Minnesota**

"I made the mango sorbet with my mom, and it was delicious on a really hot day!" **Adam, 9, North Carolina**



"I love *The Week Junior*! My favorite part is the Science and Technology section!" **Mary, 8, Texas**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Chad Smith**

School: **Foothill Elementary School**

"Mr. Smith is an amazing teacher. He checks in with each student in our class to make sure we know the math strategies he's taught us. He also plays his guitar as we sing along to different songs we've learned. With him, every day is a new experience that gives us something to talk about for days. No other teacher is like him. I'll remember this school year forever!"

Parker, 11, California

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

SHARK
O
BLUEFISH
E
MACKEREL
T
STRIPEDBASS
PERCH
I
K
E

T
B
U
N
G
H
A
K
E
A
Y
E
C
O
D
O
U
T
R
A
O
C
O
D
Y

Take five
medal
award
champ
first
prize

All the same
1. octopus
2. stopwatch
3. Topeka
4. triceratops
5. Christopher

4	6	2	1	3	5
3	5	1	2	4	6
1	4	6	3	5	2
2	3	5	6	1	4
5	2	3	4	6	1
6	1	4	5	2	3



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 a) Philadelphia 2 c) Tomato 3 14 years old
4 False. He creates a fake prototype of an electric car. 5 a) Loki 6 French Impressionists
7 b) 1973 8 False. It is located in New Zealand. 9 True 10 Iberian lynx 11 b) Gloomy
Manor 12 c) Ming 13 b) \$44.6 million 14 True 15 Boston

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 A Sumatran orangutan was recently born at a zoo in which US city for the first time in 15 years?

a) Philadelphia b) Phoenix c) Portland

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 Mannon Gallegly has spent over 70 years developing seeds for what kind of plant?

a) Cucumber b) Radish c) Tomato

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 How old is Cavan Sullivan, the youngest player in Major League Soccer history?

4 True or false? In the book *Faker*, Trey's dad creates a fake prototype of an airplane.

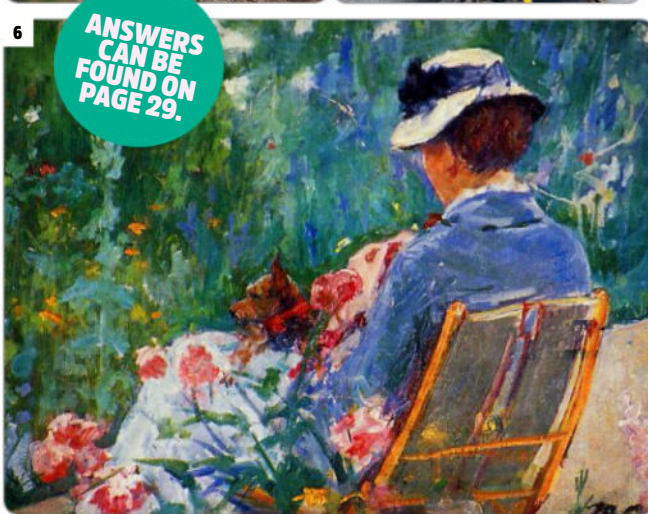
True ☐ False ☐

5 A newly discovered species of horned dinosaur was named after which Norse god?

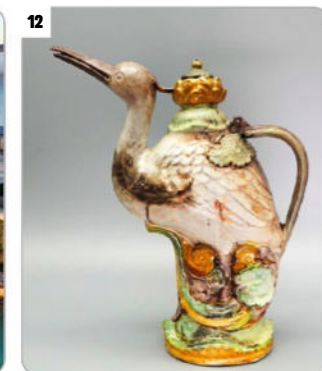
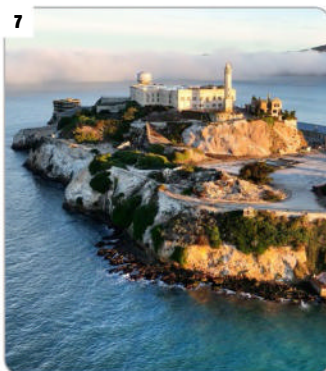
a) Loki b) Odin c) Thor

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 Artist Mary Cassatt belonged to an influential group of artists called what?



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



9 True or false? The new Apple TV+ series *Time Bandits* is based on a movie that came out in 1981.

True ☐ False ☐

10 What species of wildcat was recently found to have come back from near-extinction?

11 Which of these mansions does Luigi have to visit in the game Luigi's Mansion 2 HD?

a) Creepy Castle b) Gloomy Manor

c) Ghost Tower

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 Artifacts from which Chinese dynasty were recently recovered from two shipwrecks?

a) Qin b) Han c) Ming

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 How much did a private collector pay for the fossil of a Stegosaurus named Apex?

a) \$446 million b) \$44.6 million

c) \$4.6 million

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? The Open Championship, also known as the British Open, is the oldest continually run golf tournament.

True ☐ False ☐

15 Which city has attached googly eyes to some of the trains in its subway system?

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Editor-in-chief: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Joey Bartolomeo, Gail O'Connor, Alisa Partlan, Jennifer Li Shotz
Associate editor: Brielle Diskin
Assistant editor: Asha Sridhar
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Digital marketing director: Katie Hay
Publisher: Stevie Lee (stevie.jee@futurenet.com)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (mary.gallagher@futurenet.com)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonodo

Reader submissions: hello@theweekjunior.com
Customer service: TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
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The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 5, January 12, July 12, and September 13. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.
 POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

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MARINE MAMMALS

Although dolphins can't breathe underwater, they can stay underwater for about 10 minutes and must frequently travel to the surface for air.